

NSC review(s) completed.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

May 24, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL  
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Presidential Meeting on Laos, May 24, 1962

At the meeting on the situation in Laos held in the Cabinet Room at 4:30 p.m. today, the President requested contingency planning in the event of a breakdown of the cease fire in Laos for action in two major areas:

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In connection with the above contingency plans, the President desired an estimate of the military value of the Mekong River in Sayabouri Province as a defensive barrier in relation to the cost of taking and holding it.

The President also asked that the above planning be undertaken unilaterally by the United States without discussion at this time

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The President also indicated that he contemplated keeping U.S. forces in Thailand during the period of the 3-Prince negotiations and the early days of the government of national union, i.e. as long as they serve a necessary purpose.

The President observed that a cable would have to go in answer to Bangkok's 1844.

Copies furnished:

General Taylor  
Assist. Secretary Harriman  
Dep. Secretary Gilpatric  
Dep. Assist. Sec. Wm. Bundy  
Mr. McG. Bundy

*mve*  
Michael V. Forrestal

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2	MR. ELDER		<i>[Signature]</i> WE
3			
4			
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6			
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Remarks:

DCI directly talked to  
Dr. Kenton CIA estimate  
required.

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	25 June